

The Newark
Social Settlement
Association

A Prospectus

January, Nineteen
hundred and Six



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of the

Newark Social Settlement
Association



January, Nineteen Hundred and Five

The Newark Social Settlement Association

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Membership

Founders	\$3,000 00
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Annually

Benefactors	\$500 00
Fellows	100 00
Associate Members.....	25 00
Active Members.....	5 00
Contributing Members.....	1 00

Newark Neighborhood House

555 Market Street

Long Distance Telephone 3585



The Directors of the Newark Social Settlement Association desire to present to the public the following statement of the objects of the Association and to enlist their hearty co-operation in the fulfillment of these objects :

I. Neighborhood Houses



THE settlement of groups of cultured and resourceful men and women in the industrial district:—in those districts especially where there exists more or less poverty of wealth, or of culture, or of leisure; where for reasons, racial or industrial, there is an arrested development of wholesome social life, a devitalized religious life and an unawakened civic consciousness.

The homes of such groups of people who have chosen to live as neighbors and citizens in those parts of the city “where they seem to be most needed rather than in neighborhoods offering the most of privilege or of social prestige,” naturally become “centers of a higher civic and social life.” Through the medium of fellowship and social intercourse there comes to the members of these households and to their neighbors alike the mutual discovery of the larger life of each in the common life in the neighborhood. Out of this relationship—out of this extension of those principles of democracy which are beginning to obtain in our political life, into our social life as well, there arise various organizations and activities along social, educational, civic and philanthropic lines, usually centering in the home of the group and in the public school-building of the neighborhood.

The Location of the Neighborhood Houses

This is a matter to be determined by further study and investigation and by the future development of the work. There is a present need for at least one Neighborhood House in each of the following districts: "The Ironbound District, Down Neck," "The Ghetto" on the "Hill," "Little Italy," surrounding the Seventh Avenue School (there are four Italian colonies in Newark), and one Neighborhood House for the very large negro population.

Two Neighborhood Houses Will Open this Year

Newark Neighborhood House.—The first group will grow up about the home of Mr. and Mrs. Royal L. Melendy, 555 Market street. The "Ironbound District" has been chosen for the first Settlement partly because of its cosmopolitan nature and partly because it is the heart of the great factory district. In the section between Market and Ferry streets, from the Pennsylvania Railroad to Van Buren street, are the homes of two large colonies of "the strangers within our gates"—an Italian and a Slavic colony. In the latter colony are Poles, Lithuanians, Hungarians and a few hundred from the other Slavic peoples. Beyond Van Buren Street, "Way Down Neck," and following the river,

are the homes of thousands of German, Irish, English and American workmen and their families. The shopkeepers on the two main thoroughfares, Market and Ferry streets, are largely Jews and Germans. The houses in this section are representative of the various strata of society. Here are multitudes of tenements of the worst type, veritable cesspools of disease, into which are crowded the newly arrived, unskilled laborers, scores of small, neat houses owned by skilled laborers and a few houses of the well-to-do families. The diversity of activities that the varied needs of this district require was an additional reason for its selection.

Negro Neighborhood House.—The second neighborhood house will be among the needy of the negro population. A gentleman has offered us the funds for the opening of this house. The Directors are in correspondence with Dr. Booker T. Washington, President of the Tuskegee Institute, regarding the choice of a trained and cultured person of that race as Head Resident of this group.

Settlement Activities

Since the activities of every settlement must vary according to the needs of the particular neighborhood and the personnel of the residents in the Neighborhood House, no definite forecasting or prearranged scheme is possible. The plan is worked out, not alone for, but in conjunction and association with the neighborhood people.

A large portion of the activities may be artificially grouped under four heads: Social, Educational, Civic and Philanthropic.

Social.—The Neighborhood House gradually becomes the social center of the community. Aside from the social intercourse of everyday life, the Residents are "At Home" one evening a week to all the neighborhood. It is at these delightful gatherings that their friends from "up town" make their first acquaintance with the neighborhood folk. These acquaintances often ripen into warm friendships as the "up-town" man or woman seeks refuge more frequently from the conventionalities of his or her social life in the freshness and reality of these new friendships. In time a congenial group of neighborhood folk gather regularly with their new friends, and seek a special room in the Neighborhood House and a special night for their "club." Thus are the various Women's Clubs, Men's Clubs, Young Women's Progressive Clubs, Young Men's Pleasure Clubs and Athletic Clubs and the numerous Boys' and Girls' Game Clubs formed. The deeper social longings and instincts of the members of these clubs find in this new atmosphere of culture a freer and more wholesome opportunity for expression, while the leader, in sharing with them his life, discovers himself, and to him life takes on a deeper meaning.

Educational.—In the literary clubs, debating societies, art clubs, music classes, arts and

crafts clubs, etc., the latent talents of the neighborhood are brought to light and developed. Many a talent, needing only the stimulus of personal friendship and encouragement, is thus prevented from atrophy and saved to the world.

The Settlement is the natural center for University Extension work. Lectures and discussion clubs awaken a new interest in the world's thought and work.

Domestic science and manual training departments and the settlement kindergarten differ from those of the public schools in that they present a most excellent opportunity for the correlation of the work of these departments with the home and family life. In this they should serve as models for our public schools.

Civic.—To one living in a congested industrial district, sharing the inconveniences of bad sewerage, unsanitary plumbing, unpaved and dirty streets, the absence of green lawns, parks or playgrounds for his children, inadequate provision for the removal of garbage, and the serious and constant danger to the health of his family, arising from chronic disregard of health ordinances on the part of greedy landlords and of ignorant tenants among his neighbors, most of whom are innocent of any knowledge either of nature's or the city's health laws, the desirability of improvement through municipal action becomes far more than a the-

ory possessed; it becomes an ever-present fact, spurring him on to associated action for civic improvement. Naturally the better class of his neighbors gather quickly about the one who knows how to get with them what they sorely need and have long wanted, and civic clubs are formed.

More important still are the clubs for the study of our national, state and municipal political institutions. One of the gravest dangers to the future welfare of our national life lies in the false interpretation of our democratic political institutions by people reared under the iron hand of despotism and turned over for their instruction here to the tender mercies of the politician, whose interest in them is periodical and at best not very high. Only those who, through constant fellowship with these people, learn their various points of view, are in a position to interpret to them sympathetically the high ideals and the present realities of our political institutions.

Philanthropic.—The Settlement is not a charity. Its function is to act as a medium through which the needy neighbor and the institution already here to meet that need are brought together. It brings one of the district nurses to the sick, or takes the afflicted one to the hospital. It helps its neighbor, who is hard pressed to keep his family together, largely through the appropriate charity organization, whether it be the Catholic, the Hebrew, the Female or the Associated Charities. It is, in short, a big brother to the neighborhood.

II. Social Research and Bureau of Information



THE investigation of the social and industrial conditions in Newark and the establishment of a Bureau of Information containing reports on enterprises for social and industrial betterment in other cities.

Only through a careful study of the history and development of the social and industrial conditions in this city can their meaning and their probable future trend be determined. Students in the Orient are unearthing ancient cities, in some instances finding cities at several successive depths, one upon another. The revelations of ancient civilizations that these students are bringing to us form a part of the historic background upon which we project our judgments of the forces moulding modern civilization. Just as in ancient times the same plot of ground held successive people who mingled their civilization with their predecessors and in turn modified that of their successors, even so within the past century in the city of Newark have several foreign peoples successively invaded and completely possessed certain sections of our city, bringing types of civilization modified by and modifying their predecessors and

successors in these sections. These people are attempting to adjust the social life and customs of the European peasantry to life in the crowded industrial districts of the city. An effective social work among them must be based upon a sympathetic study of these efforts.

The Settlements are laboratories for students of Social Science, and, indeed, the knowledge gained by the permanent residents in these houses, when collated and published, becomes invaluable to the workers in every other organization in the city that would undertake any line of social betterment.

In the establishment of a Bureau of Information containing reports from other cities where social work is highly developed, on the enterprises for social betterment that have been undertaken in these cities by the municipality or by philanthropic or religious agencies, a service of no small magnitude is rendered social workers. There need be no such blundering and expensive experimenting here to-day as others have had to pass through, since we may be guided by their experience



III. Co-operation with Other Agencies



TO bring about the co-operation of agencies for social and civic improvement. The Newark Social Settlement Association should have the same relation to these agencies that the Bureau of Associated Charities has to the various charitable organizations in the city.

The method of the Association is as follows:

First: To study the field and learn what needs to be done.

Second: To co-operate with the agencies already engaged in some form of social work.

Third: To induce other agencies, such as the Municipal Government, Board of Education, Trades Council, Board of Trade, Churches, etc., to do a social or industrial work needed in our city and which corresponding organizations in other cities have undertaken with success.

Fourth: To do as large a share as possible of the work then remaining undone.

To investigate, co-operate, initiate and finally to undertake is our method.



IV. The Extension of the Settlement Idea into Homes Advantageously Situated



THE ideal Settlement is the home. Newark, because of the close proximity of its homes of culture and resource to the needy districts above mentioned, has exceptional opportunity for the development of many such ideal Settlements.

"When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen nor thy rich neighbors; lest they also bid thee again and a recompense be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind; and thou shalt be blessed." (Spoken by Jesus of Nazareth.) It is not, however, the occasional spasmodic effort to do something *for* another, but the continuous fulfillment of the ordinary natural relationship of neighborliness, that is the basic element of the "Social Settlement Idea."



V. To Bring to the Community as a Whole a Fuller Sense of Its Social and Economic Unity



TO bring the community as a whole, through the investigation and interpretation of its social and industrial conditions, through the co-operation of the various agencies for industrial, civic and social improvement and through such opportunities for social intercourse between men and women of all classes, trades, professions, races and religions, as the Neighborhood Houses afford, a fuller sense of its social and economic unity.



Field Work in Social Science

Visits to many of New York City's institutions for social betterment, such as Social Settlements, Institutional Churches, Recreation Centers, Social Halls, etc., will be conducted by Mr. Melendy, on the first Monday of every month. These trips are for the benefit of those who would learn at first hand something of the variety and multiplicity of these agencies, of the closeness of their inter-relationship and of the adaptability of each separate institution to the varying conditions with which it contends.

Visits will also be made to the institutions of Charities and Corrections in our own city and county. An increasing number of our

citizens should have a personal knowledge of these institutions. A schedule of these trips and further information may be obtained upon application to the General Secretary, No. 555 Market street.



Bibliography of Settlements

A complete bibliography of College, Social, University and Church Settlements, containing a brief notice of the work done in each of the several settlements, a list of books and periodical literature upon the subject and a list of the books upon related subjects most frequently found in a Settlement resident's library, will be found in the Newark Free Public Library, or a copy may be secured for ten cents upon application to the General Secretary of the Newark Social Settlement Association, No. 555 Market street.



And the word was made flesh and dwelt among us.—John of Patmos.

As fire cannot extinguish fire, so evil cannot suppress evil. Good alone, confronting evil and resisting its contagion, can overcome evil.—Count Tolstoy.

Whosoever would save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life for my sake shall find it.—Jesus of Nazareth.

That one man should die ignorant who had a capacity for knowledge, this I call a tragedy.—Thomas Carlyle.

It is often easier to send a few pennies to the poor black boy in Africa than it is to show the Christlike spirit to the little black boy just around the corner.—Booker T. Washington.

Oh, do not pray for easy lives,
Pray to be strong men.
Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers,
Pray for powers equal to your tasks.

—Philips Brooks.

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